

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) ~~A metal structure unlikely to become brittle and having excellent hardness and creep resistance, wherein~~ A contact probe comprising a plunger portion in contact with a circuit to be tested, a spring portion supporting the plunger portion and a lead line connection portion electrically connecting the spring portion to a lead line,

wherein:

said contact probe is formed of nickel-manganese alloy,

annealing has been applied at a temperature of 150°C-250°C, not more than a temperature at which crystals of a metal material said a nickel-manganese alloy start to become larger, and

a crystal size of said contact probe after annealing is not more than 130 nm.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The metal structure~~ contact probe according to claim 1, wherein said metal structure is formed of at least two kinds of metal material, and annealing has been applied at a temperature not more than the temperature at which crystals of the metal material start to become larger.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The metal structure~~ contact probe according to claim 1, wherein said metal structure is a microstructure.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Withdrawn—Currently amended) A method of fabricating a metal structure unlikely to become brittle and having excellent hardness and creep resistance, wherein the method comprises the step of applying annealing at [[at]] a temperature not more than a temperature at which crystals of a metal material start to become larger.